

Poster Presentation

THE LAKE MICHIGAN OUTREACH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM: PROVIDING EMERGING CITIZEN FISHERY LEADERS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF GREAT LAKES FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Recreational fishing opportunities comprise an important social and economic component of the Lake Michigan shoreline in Illinois and Indiana. Members of the public often have strong interests in how Great Lakes fisheries are researched and managed by various academic institutions and government agencies. Recognizing these interests, the Illinois Natural History Survey, together with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, has set out to develop and implement the *Lake Michigan Fisheries Outreach Enhancement Program*. The program will address communication needs for the diverse recreational, charter, and commercial interests in Lake Michigan and Chicago urban fisheries. An important objective of the program is to collect and organize existing materials on Great Lakes fisheries habitat to use as curriculum for the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute. The concept behind the development of the Institute is to provide in-depth training to the next generation of leaders (those who are new leaders to their fisheries-related organizations or those likely to become leaders of their organizations within the next few years). The Institute will operate on a regional, lake, and state level and will be capable of providing emerging citizen fishery leaders the knowledge and skills needed to effectively interact with Great Lakes fisheries management organizations for the benefit of the fishery. Moreover, the Institute intends to develop a diverse, well-informed constituency for the Great Lakes that bases its decisions and actions on science-based information. Institute sessions are projected to begin in early summer 2003.

Dolan*, C.R., Illinois Natural History Survey/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant/IDNR-Technical Support Section, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL, USA 62702; 217-557-1406; FAX 217-785-2438; cdolan@dnrmail.state.il.us.

Epifanio, J.M., Illinois Natural History Survey, Center for Aquatic Ecology, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL, USA 61820; 217-244-5059; FAX 217-333-6294; epifanio@inhs.uiuc.edu.